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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/461,160	12/14/1999	JOHN THORNLEY	06618/389001	3403

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EXAMINER

VO, LILIAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2127

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/461,160

Applicant(s)

THORNLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Lilian Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-84 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

**Group I**, claims 1 – 14, and 77 – 82, which drawn to a method of synchronizing the threads in a multiple thread system, classified in class 709, subclass 316.

**Group II**, claims 15 – 35, and 70 – 76, which drawn to a method of defining program code, classified in class 717, subclass 117.

**Group III**, claims 36 – 44, which drawn to a method of coding a program, classified in class 717, subclass 100.

**Group IV**, claim 45, which drawn to a method of integrating a structured multithreading program development system with a standard program code development system, classified in class 717, subclass 120.

**Group V**, claims 46 – 59, which drawn to a method of operating a program language with synchronizing access of threads to shared memory using a special defined synchronizing element, classified in class 717, subclass 114.

**Group VI**, claims 60 – 69, which drawn to a method of modifying an existing program development system and environment, classified in class 717, subclass 163.

**Group VII**, claims 83 – 84, which drawn to a method of integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system, classified in class 717, subclass 162.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I - VII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as in a system lacking the methods of defining program code, coding a program, integrating a structured multithreading program development system with a standard program code development system, operating a program language with synchronizing access of threads to shared memory using a special defined synchronizing element, modifying an existing program development system and environment, and integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system. Invention II has separate utility such as in a system lacking the methods of coding a program, integrating a structured multithreading program development system with a standard program code development system, operating a program language with synchronizing access of threads to shared memory using a special defined synchronizing element, modifying an existing program development system and environment, and integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system. Invention III has separate utility such as in a system lacking the methods of integrating a structured multithreading program development system with a standard program code development system, operating a program language with synchronizing access of threads to shared memory using a special defined synchronizing element, modifying an existing program development system and environment, and integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system. Invention IV has separate utility such as in a system lacking the methods of operating a program language with synchronizing access of threads to shared memory using a special defined synchronizing element, modifying an existing program development system and environment, and integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system. Invention V has

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separate utility such as in a system lacking the methods of modifying an existing program development system and environment, and integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system. Invention VI has separate utility such as in a system lacking the method of integrating a thread management system with an existing program development system. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for one group is not required for another group, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. A telephone call was made to Scott Harris on 4/07/2003 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

6. Applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement to be completed must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

7. Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the

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currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lilian Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-7864.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Lilian Vo  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2127

lv  
April 15, 2003



**JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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